RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Sir, I am deeply conscious of the criticisms that have been urged by my honourable colleagues on the other side of the House. The honourable member Mr. Janardanan Nair and my friend Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai drew the attention of this House to the statements contained in the Audit and Appropriation Report of the year 1115. In fact the audit did reveal certain material irregularities in the conduct of affairs of the Kundara Factory and Government have taken and are taking the necessary steps to cure the defects pointed out in that report.

In regard to the management of the factory, Government have not been slow to improve matters and I may assure honourable members of this House that the affairs of this factory are engaging the very serious attention of Government especially in view of its great potentialities. It is really a valuable asset, the proper utilisation and development of which is one of the primary considerations of Government and no effort will be spared in seeing that matters are set right.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 58,990 under Demand X—Clay Refining and Porcelain Factory was put and carried.

The demand was passed and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXI—INDUSTRIES.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 7,500 under Demand XXI—Industries. The House is well aware of the activities of the Department of Geology in the matter of prospecting work carried on with regard to mica and graphite. In the course of prospecting work several unforeseen difficulties have arisen, especially at Vattiyurkavu where although a lateritic stratum was expected, huge boulders of solid granite have been formed. Similarly at Mangaram the walls of the shaft for about a depth of fifteen feet were quite strong and firm, but when further depths were reached, they were found to be soft. The result is that in spite of the utmost possible economy exercised, the work cannot be carried out further without additional expenditure. I may in this connection point out that the works so far have yielded very good results and about thirty tons of mica and about sixty-five tons of graphite have already been won. I need hardly say that mica is a very valuable material for war purposes and increased production of this commodity is a valuable contribution to war efforts. I hope the House will grant the demand.

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI: May I know the approximate quantity that the mines could yield this year?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: That will depend upon the winning of good quality mica. We have already got good strata of mica.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 7,500 under Demand XXI—Industries was put and carried.

The demand was passed and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXXI—MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 5,000 under Demand XXXI—Miscellaneous Charges.

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